



City Hall Greens

**Zack Polanski AM
City Hall
Kamal Chunchie Way
LONDON E16 1ZE**

Tunde Olayinka and Navprit Rai
Greater London Authority
(By email)

29 May 2024

Dear Tunde and Navprit,

Dismissed workers from GLA-supported charity Rooted Finance

I am writing to you urgently regarding an issue with GLA-supported debt charity, Rooted Finance, raised with me by the Independent Workers Union of Great Britain (IWGB).

It was recently reported that four of the six frontline workers of Rooted Finance, a debt advice charity, were fired on International Women's Day.

[Union says charity sacked staff hours after strike plans were announced \(civilsociety.co.uk\)](https://civilsociety.co.uk)

The move to sack the workers came a few hours after the workers publicly announced that they had successfully balloted to strike. This follows 100% of the front-line work force sending an open letter to management several months earlier simply requesting union recognition, fair pay and adequate training.

The former workers have told me that there are now no Debt Advisors employed at Rooted Finance and that, excluding management, only one Advice Assistant remains.

I share the concern of the workers on how one remaining Advice Manager will be able to support an estimated 120 vulnerable existing service users.

Fair pay and workplace wellbeing are two of the four pillars that make up the Mayor's Good Work Standard, which also includes working with trade unions as a benchmark for good work.

[The Good Work Standard \(GWS\) | London City Hall](#)

The GLA regularly provides funding, via the Financial Hardship Team in the Communities and Skills Directorate, to Rooted Finance. I am concerned that this organisation's recent conduct has not been in-keeping with the Mayor's values, as illustrated by their contravention of the principles of the Good Work Standard.

I would like to propose a meeting between yourselves and the representatives of former Rooted Finance workers, and IWGB, to better understand the specifics of the situation and to use your influence to create the path to an amicable settlement.

I am happy to meet to discuss further and help convene this meeting.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Zack Polanski". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Zack Polanski
Green Party Member of the London Assembly